

A-557



"Justin P. Cobb" <jcobb@facil.umass.edu> on 06/05/2001 08:44:01 PM

To: "FARSecretariat" <farcase.2001-014@gsa.gov>
cc:

Subject: FAR Case 2001-014

To Whom It May Concern::

I am writing to express my opposition to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's proposal to repeal the Clinton administration's rules on federal contractor responsibility. The rules require contracting officers to look at a company's record of complying with the law in deciding whether the company is a "responsible contractor" eligible to receive a federal contract.

A company's track record of complying with the law should be an important factor in deciding whether the company deserves a federal contract. Companies that routinely disregard worker safety and health, fail to pay minimum wages and overtime as required by the law, or violate other laws providing fundamental protections to workers shouldn't be rewarded with federal contracts. That's unfair to companies that do comply with the law and allows violators to profit from their lawbreaking.

Federal contracts should go to responsible, law-abiding companies, not to corporate lawbreakers. I urge the FAR Council not to repeal the contractor responsibility rules and to let the rules go into effect without further delay.

As a Public Employee with over 25 years of experience in Facilities, I am constantly walking by buildings constructed by irresponsible contractors. They may be low bid now but the time value of money means that the premature systems failures from shoddy workmanship, and contractors who skip safety for profit cost the Government much more. And this is if no one gets hurt. I urge you to keep contractor responsibility rules in place.

Sincerely,
Justin P. Cobb
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